



Denver Field Ornithologists

Dear DFO members,

It's possible, perhaps even likely, that among our DFO friends or their families are residents of Louisville and Superior who may have been impacted by the Marshall Fire. To those of you who may be grappling with displacement or loss caused by this tragic event, please know that you have the support and sympathy of DFO's board and membership.

Most of us can only imagine the devastation when one loses a home, a pet, irreplaceable mementoes and/or the valuable belongings that accompany daily life, and that we all tend to take for granted until they are gone. We never know when tragedy may strike, but we know we want to help when it does.

For those of you in the DFO community who need help, and those who want to donate or offer assistance, following are some useful resources identified by 9News. Be mindful that some of these websites may be experiencing heavy traffic at this time.

- **Boulder Office of Emergency Management:** Ways to help can be found at <https://www.boulderoem.com/emergency-status/>
- **Colorado Responds:** coloradoresponds.org This site has excellent information on what types of help are most beneficial in this situation.
- **The Sister Carmen Community Center:** Go to www.sistercarmen.org and click on the "Donate" button to support their wildfire response
- **Community Foundation of Boulder County:** commfound.org also offers a one-click option for donations to the Marshall Fire response fund

Let us all be grateful that no lives were lost in the Marshall Fire, and remember that recovery from such an occurrence will take time and continued support from the community. Here's hoping that 2022 brings continued support and comfort to all of the fire's victims, and a healthy, safe year ahead.

Sincerely,

Susan Blansett, President [303-475-2718](tel:303-475-2718)

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." Antoine Saint-Exupery

Denver Field Ornithologists

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Denver Field Ornithologists



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It took until New Year's Eve, but winter's cold and snow have finally arrived. Along with winter birds, bundled-up field trips and raw weather that's "great for birding," now also arriving is the mid-winter issue of *The Lark Bunting*, the Denver Field Ornithologists newsletter. Our February–March 2022 edition is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. It also marks the semi-annual midseason break. Until we return again in early March, check out what's inside right now:

+ From yard to patch and beyond — We're all developing birders, says DFO Field Trips chair **David Suddjian**, and progression from beginner to expert is a matter of scale. In *From the Field*, David offers a self-guided path to birding enrichment that everyone can take, from solo outings to DFO field trips and more, near or far

+ MOB rules — When a rare bird drops into someone's backyard, bird-chasers can only hope the homeowner is as welcoming as DFO member **Cynthia Madsen**. In December, she invited the MOB ("Many Other Birders") for views of a visiting Wood Thrush from inside her Centennial home (Covid masks required). Front-row glimpses of "Woody" were an early holiday present to warm fingers and toes --- and hearts

+ Up close, personally — Our *In the Scope* Q+A profile features field trip leader **Diane Roberts**, who describes herself as "kind of 'home-grown'" in DFO. Diane became a birder by joining the club, and learned much of what she knows about birding through field trips and "great people to mentor you" when you're just starting out

PLUS: How to join in DFO's Hawkwatch community science project on Dinosaur Ridge this spring . . . winter project fun: building a birdhouse for nesting

yardbirds come spring . . . details of December's annual Denver Christmas Bird Count . . . and much more.

Good mid-winter birding, everyone!

Denver Field Ornithologists

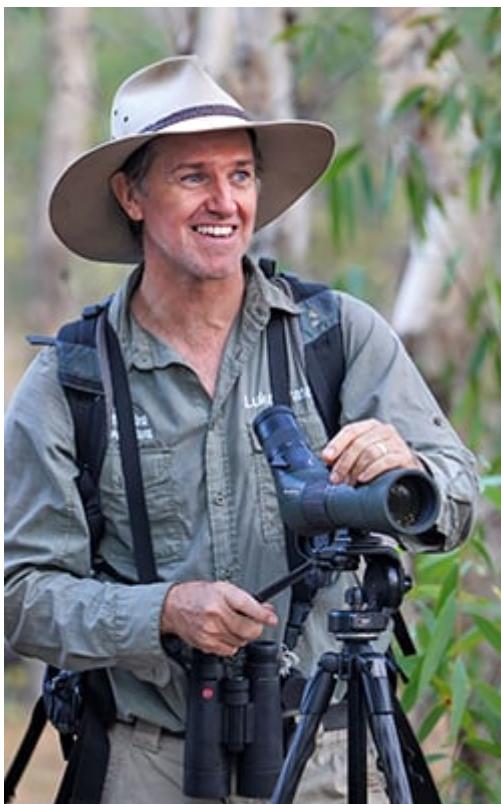
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There is still time to register for DFO's monthly program on January 17. Australian bird guide Luke "Hawk Eyes" Paterson will present *Birding Adventures in Australia's Northern Territory* beginning at 7 PM via Zoom webinar. Register in advance by clicking on this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ja28H2XEST6V0_J8-FMw2g

Paterson, a 21-year veteran guide on birding and photography tours, will take us on a virtual tour of the best birding sites in the tropical Top End of Australia's vast, diverse, and sparsely populated Northern Territory. The Top End is home to over 400 bird species, including Gouldian Finch, Red Goshawk, Rainbow Pitta, White-throated Grasswren, and the Great Bowerbird. A former assistant warden at Birdlife Australia's Broome Bird Observatory, Paterson is the recipient of the prestigious Brolga Award for his excellence as a tour operator.

Luke will join us via Zoom from Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory. You don't want to miss this program! When you register, you will be sent a link to the Zoom webinar.



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A Year in the Lives of North American Owls

Monday, February 28

7 PM

Paul Bannick

Join award-winning author and wildlife photographer Paul Bannick for a program built on his best-selling book of the same name, *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*. His presentation includes photos and video of owls in all four seasons on their territories, from courtship, mating and nesting in spring to fledging and feeding young in summer and then dispersal in autumn migration and competition for food in winter.

Bannick's other books include *Owl* (2016) and *The Owl and the Woodpecker: Encounters with North America's Most Iconic Birds* (2008). His photography is found in birding guides from Audubon, Peterson, The Smithsonian and Stokes to the National Wildlife Federation and several volumes of *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. NOTE: this program will not be recorded at the request of the presenter.

Register for the Zoom webinar here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rvltcLplTneFI7nM7pTK5g

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Denver Field Ornithologists



Dear DFO member,

The Nominating Committee of the DFO is accepting nominations for election to the DFO Board of Directors through March 21, 2022. As a member of DFO, you may nominate yourself or another member for any of the positions up for election this year. **TO NOMINATE YOURSELF or ASK QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT BEA WEAVER BY MARCH 21 AT beamiami@aol.com or 305-498-5935.** For those without an email address on file, instructions on how to nominate and how to vote will appear in the next issue of The Lark Bunting.

The Nominating Committee is proposing the following slate of Officers and Directors:

Officers (1-year term):

Susan Blansett President

Sharon Tinianow Vice President

Peter Stoltz Secretary

Kathy Holland Treasurer

Directors (3-year term):

Mary Geder

David Suddjian

Sue Summers

The May issue of The Lark Bunting, which is available by April 10, will provide background information on each nominee. The election will be held via email from April 1 through April 24. **Watch your email for a link to vote online.**

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It's still winter, but the mid-winter hiatus is over for the DFO newsletter, and the jam-packed April issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available on the club website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. Check out our 28-page biggest issue ever:

+ BIRDING, OR BIRD-WATCHING? — A thought-provoking essay from **Jared Del Rosso** focuses on bird-watching as a more relaxed and reflective alternative to birding's preoccupation with bagging species and checklisting numbers

+ BIRDING + BAKING — Don't miss our *In The Scope* Q&A profile of member **Felice Lyons**. Savvy field trippers know that if Felice is signed up for a DFO trip, a trayful of her home-baked treats will be waiting for everyone at the end of the outing

+ TRIPS TAKING OFF — Two months into 2022, our field trip program is on pace for more outings and species than even in DFO's Big Year in 2018. In *From the Field*, Field Trip chair **David Suddjian** tracks our fast start and outlines improvements to make trip planning easier and sign-ups fairer

PLUS: Recaps of outstanding January and February programs . . . a *Field Tripping* dispatch from seldom-visited Las Animas County . . . a DFO grant recipient's report about raptor nesting in remote northeastern Colorado . . . and a nest full of *DFO News Notes*, from the start of spring Hawk Watch to DFO's new science adviser to April's annual club election.

NOTE: One of those *DFO News Notes* is about a City of Wheat Ridge survey on proposed trail improvements and other work at Tabor Lake. This popular spot in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt is a sensitive nesting site for scores of cormorants and a few herons as well. What's your opinion? Read about the proposal in *The*

Lark Bunting and tell the city what YOU think in the online survey (deadline April 1).

Good end-of-winter birding, everyone!

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Dear Members,

Beginning March 9 our trip registration calendar on the web page will evolve further, with even more scheduling convenience in mind.

The DFO webpage will now list all planned field trips for 8 weeks ahead of the current date, but with a twist: Sign-ups for each trip will not open until three weeks ahead of the date of that outing. Thus, registration will go “live” when the calendar date for the trip is 21 days away, AND birders will get a farther-ahead glimpse of what trips are coming. Then, one by one, trips will open for sign-ups as their dates approach, on the same three-week schedule for all. This gives birders time to decide which trips interest them and make plans to register when they open. (Some trips, especially multiday or out-of-state excursions, may have even longer lead times for sign-ups if participants need to book lodging ahead of time or deal with other advance logistics.).

David Suddjian

Field Trip Committee Chair

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This is a follow up message to the original story in the recent *Lark Bunting*.

Many of us are familiar with Tabor Lake near Prospect Park in the Wheat Ridge Open Space. This is one of the top spots for birding in the west Denver metropolitan area, and hosts colonial nesting water birds, wintering ducks and a variety of resident and migrating songbirds year-round. Bald eagles are often seen flying overhead in the winter, and share the sky with the occasional raptors.

The project. The City of Wheat Ridge has decided to make trail improvements that will surround Tabor Lake, and is soliciting comments by way of a survey on the design of the trail and the possible uses that will be allowed. There is currently no designated trail around the lake according to the [Wheat Ridge Clear Creek Trail Map](#).

The City has mentioned its interest in enhancing wildlife habitat around the lake, while also proposing a “ring trail” which will make this goal challenging at best. With a heavier presence of hikers, dog-walkers, cyclists and others surrounding the lake, sensitive species, including many birds may become additionally stressed and leave the lake for more protected surroundings. Also, ring trails, even the more wildlife friendly ones that are set back from the water and allow access only at certain points, are still eventually overrun, and informal shoreline trails often become permanent.

What you can do. There is a “comments” question on the survey where you can state any concerns you may have about this project, and management of the Open Space more generally.

If this project is of concern to you and you want your views to be considered, please take the survey – you can answer any or all of the questions. The comments section is probably the most important, so please consider expanding on your comments and concerns using this space.

The survey will be available until April 1st.

Wheat Ridge Open Space webpage and link to survey:

<https://www.rootedinfun.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=261>

Thank you,

Steve Ryder

Conservation Chair, DFO

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Scott Weidensaul**Monday, March 28, 2022****7 p.m. MDT via Zoom**

Register today for this exciting webinar featuring writer-naturalist, bird migration researcher, lecturer and guide **Scott Weidensaul**, author of the best-selling book of the same name, *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*.

A World on the Wing introduces readers to scientists, researchers and bird lovers studying global bird migration patterns, many of which are facing disruption by climate change, human activities, and other environmental challenges. Kirkus Reviews raved that *A World on the Wing* “belongs in every birder’s library.” Another of Weidensaul’s more than two dozen previous books, [*Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*](#), was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2000.

Weidensaul is a fellow of the American Ornithological Society and an active field researcher. He co-directs Project OwlNet, a collaboration of 125 banding and research stations studying North American owl migration. Weidensaul is co-founder of Project SNOWstorm, which tracks Snowy Owls, and is a founder of Critical Connections, which charts migration of birds that breed in Alaskan national parks.

For more than 25 years, he has also directed a major study of Northern Saw-Whet Owls. He also co-founded the Northeast Motus Collaboration, a network to track bats, insects and small birds via automated telemetry receivers across the mid-Atlantic and New England.

Join DFO and the [University of Colorado Museum of Natural History](#) for this special program. Go to this link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NQwl-elyTzaf8ul-NYjNbA

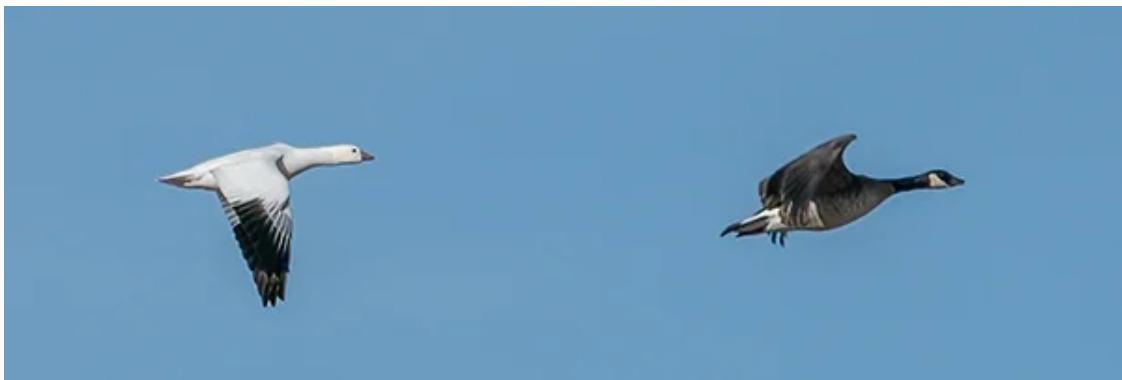
PLEASE NOTE: the recording of this presentation will be available on the DFO website for one month following the program.

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Greetings DFO Members.

It is time for the annual election of directors and officers of the board of Denver Field Ornithologists. As a member of DFO, you are entitled to vote. Follow this link to your ballot:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DR2KSGL>

The ballot will remain open through April 24. It should only take a few minutes for you to complete. On behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Board of Denver Field Ornithologists, thank you for your participation!

Bea Weaver, Chair

Denver Field Ornithologists

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Denver Field Ornithologists



Here they come, everyone. Spring migration — and all those birds — are nearly upon us . . . and so is the May 2022 issue of *The Lark Bunting*. The Denver Field Ornithologists newsletter is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. There's plenty inside, including:

+ DFO's new look: Our cool new logo takes its first bow in the *From the President* column. **Susan Blanett** explains how the vibrant, multicolor "feather" emblem came together, how it represents us, and why it'll look smashing on T-shirts, hats and other future "merch"

+ March madness: For field trips, it was a month to remember. Milestones (400th bird species on a DFO trip), rarities (Slaty-backed Gull), trips to new corners of Colorado DFO had never been before (San Luis Valley, with a nice Sandhill Crane photo spread),

+ In the Scope: Q&A with DFO Instagram maven, field trip leader and bird bander **Megan Miller** (not to mention *Lets Go Birding* YouTube channel co-host).

Plus: DFO evening program reviews and previews, and other DFO news. How many of you were about age 10-12 on your first DFO field trip? The Christmas Bird Count trip leader put pre-teen Megan in charge of robins and starlings!

+ DFO election: Read the candidate bios and instructions for voting NOW in the annual election for DFO officers and board members. Voting closes on April 24, so get to the "polls" (Survey Monkey online link already sent to you by email) now!

+ Plus: A big-time boom in raptor sightings as DFO's Hawk Watch completes its first month up on Dinosaur Ridge . . . Tips for making your windows bird-safe against collisions . . . a review of bird researcher-author **Scott Weidensaul's**

bird-filled Zoom presentation to almost 300 rapt viewers about the mind-bogglingly amazing feats of avian migration . . . and plenty more.

Don't forget to vote, by midnight Sunday, April 24

Good spring birding, everyone!

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Greetings DFO members,

Spring migration is here and will be continuing through at least May. As I am sure you are aware, many bird species migrate at night, when it's cooler and there are fewer predators around. But flying at night is full of hazards, too, mostly from human structures such as towers, guy lines, and most deadly of all, buildings with lights left on. Birds are amazing navigators. But artificial lighting interferes with their navigation abilities, and many birds collide with buildings, often fatally.

Lights Out is a national effort to reduce bird collisions due to reflective surfaces and disorientation due to bright artificial lights. **Lights Out Colorado**, a partnership between the International Dark-sky Association Colorado Chapter, Audubon Rockies, and Denver Audubon, promotes two simple actions homeowners can take in Colorado to have a big impact on birds:

1. Shield outdoor lights to prevent light from being emitted upwards.
2. Turn off lights before midnight during bird migration seasons (April–May and August–September)

Governor Polis has proclaimed April [Lights Out for Bird Migration](#) month in Colorado. Additional information on bird migration and how you can help can be found on <https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program>.

You can help by volunteering with **Lights Out Denver**. Every spring (April–May) and fall (September–October), Denver Parks and Recreation volunteers search city sidewalks for evidence of bird window strikes. Injured birds are taken to wildlife rehabilitation, and deceased bird data is collected to determine problem areas. Learn more about the program and sign up to volunteer on the [Light's Out Denver website](#).

You can make a difference even if you do not live in a high-rise apartment. Many birds collide with one- and two-story homes too, so keeping your lights off or down-tilted will reduce the danger for the spring migrants! And, check out the article in the latest issue of [The Lark Bunting](#) to learn how to treat your windows to prevent bird strikes.

Steve Ryder
Conservation Chair

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DFO Monthly Meeting

From House Wrens to Herons: Updates from DFO Funded Avian Research

Monday, April 25 at 7 PM

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qR0dp0nyTw2SWRTL9W3YYw

- Noelle Mason, undergraduate student at Colorado State University, will present on her research on common songbirds netted on the CSU's Environmental Learning Center. Her research uses DNA from blood samples to gauge life stress on wild bird populations.
- Patrick Magee, Associate Professor of Wildlife and Conservation Biology at Western Colorado University will present on the large colony of herons nesting along the Slate River in Crested Butte, CO. The colony is threatened by recreational use of the river.
- William Anderson, graduate student at Colorado University Boulder will present his research using whole genome data to study two lineages of House Wrens that hybridize in a contact zone where the Rockies meets the Plains.

Bird Bombs: Helpful Bursts of ID Info

Spring into Warblers

Thursday, April 28 at 7 PM

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZULdeyhrjMpHdBwwM3V4Wo7j3zlvLJsDfkR>

Join DFO for the first episode of Bird Bombs, a new program designed to teach birding skills via 30-minute long Zoom sessions. Field Trip Committee Chair David Suddjian will use bird images, eBird and other resources to prepare you for identifying the warblers moving through the Front Range in the coming weeks. Be prepared to have fun while you learn! Each session will conclude with time for Q and A.

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Hello, birders!

Spring migration across Colorado is fully on, and taking note is the new issue of *The Lark Bunting*. With **Dave Prentice**'s eye-popping closeup of a Common Yellowthroat on the cover, the Denver Field Ornithologists newsletter for June 2022 is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. There's plenty inside for the season, including:

+ Bird Bombs!: DFO's new series of short (30 minutes), info-packed bird ID webinars is now under way, and the first (spring warblers) was a singing success. Another is coming on May 19 (kingbirds et al.). Read all about it in DFO Field Trip chair **David Suddjian**'s *From the Field* column and click the link there to sign up!

+ Spring Bird Count: There's still time THIS WEEK to sign up for DFO's annual migration season tally of species and bird numbers at eight critical locations across metro Denver this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Read more in **Susan Blanett**'s *From the President* column and in a bird count story about how to spot species trends in our 43-year count database. Click here <https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrips/UpcomingTrips.aspx> to see the spring count trips and sign up!

+ In the Scope: Read our Q&A with DFO member and field trip leader **Kevin Corwin**, a volunteer extraordinaire for numerous bird and other causes and a man we affectionately call "Mr. Keep Smilin'" for his familiar sign-off to occasional posts on the COBirds list-serv

+ Scots rock!: Read how a stray email led DFO to rediscover its 20-year-old "twinning" relationship with Scotland's Angus & Dundee Bird Club. History can warm the heart, and we hope it will reawaken this dormant connection with old friends

+ Plus: **Marc Strong**'s review of the final DFO program of spring 2022, in which Colorado bird researchers supported by DFO grants update us on their projects . . . a follow-up on DFO's raptor-filled Hawk Watch @ Dinosaur Ridge observations this spring . . . a photo essay on a pond-hopping overnight field trip for shorebirds across southeastern Colorado . . . and more!

Good spring birding, everyone!

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DFO Digest

Mid-Month Updates & Reminders

NEW. Programs and other events.

- **Shop DFO Merch.** We now have an online merchandize shop! Visit the new [DFO Shop](#). Proceeds from the sale of DFO merchandise will support the organization and help spread the word about DFO.
- **"Kings of the Road."** Learn about Kingbird ID and about other birds that flush, fly and flit along our Colorado roads, May 19, 2022, 7:00 PM MDT. To join this upcoming "Bird Bomb" webinar, [register with DFO](#).

DUE. Reminders for opportunities to join DFO activities.

- **Field Trips.** There are still openings for upcoming May DFO field trips. Registration dates for June trips began on May 13. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page soon, they fill up fast.

DÉJÀ VU. Items for renewed awareness from recent Lark Bunting newsletters.

- **How to prevent window strikes** ([May 2022](#), p. 12-13).

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Chico Basin Ranch Advisory

Greetings DFO members,

Chico Basin Ranch is one of Colorado birders' favorite spots, and we're grateful to Ranchlands for being so gracious to birders.

Knowing that rain can make Chico's roads muddy and at times impassable, it's ALWAYS a good idea to check conditions at the Ranch IN ADVANCE of your visits. If you are planning a trip to Chico, please do yourself a favor and check the "[Ranchland Chico Basin Ranch](#)" Facebook page before heading out. Closures will be posted there and on Instagram.

With gratitude,

Susan Blansett

DFO President

[303-475-2718](#)

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song."

-Maya Angelou

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Spring migration is over . . . already? Don't look now, it's summer, and that means the July-August issue of *The Lark Bunting*. The Denver Field Ornithologists newsletter is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. There's a double-issue's worth of summer reading inside, including:

+ The reluctant (bird) photographer: How dread and avoidance yielded to a birding embrace for DFO member **Rebecca Laroche**, who took up a camera not just for pretty pictures, but to document birds better. A compelling essay about using that other kind of birding equipment on your shoulder

+ Golden programs for fall: Wait, it's summer but the autumn evening program guide is out? You bet, and the eclectic array of topics and presenters includes three perennial favorite speakers sure to draw a crowd: **David Leatherman! Ted Floyd! Nathan Pieplow!**

+ Raptor-watching heaven: DFO's spring Hawk Watch on Dinosaur Ridge is history, and record numbers of volunteers helped make 2022 one of the best seasons ever for this vital community swcie3nce project.

Plus: Ever-curious and tireless DFO field trip leader **Karen Drozda** "In the Scope" . . . more "Bird Bombs" species ID mini-webinars coming through the summer . . . a "Field Tripping" photo spread from spring migration in southeast Colorado . . . cool tees, travel mugs and other "merch" from the new DFO Gear Store . . . and enough DFO news to keep you busy until we return in August with the September issue of our newsletter.

Enjoy the summer birding, and see you in the fall, everyone!

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DFO Digest

Updates & Reminders

NEW. Programs and other events. Coming soon in 2022:

- **July 14, 7:00 PM** – BIRD BOMBS: [Summer Hummers](#)
- **August 4, 7:00 PM** – BIRD BOMBS: [It Has Yellow Legs](#)
- **August 18, 7:00 PM** – BIRD BOMBS: [The Little Pipers](#)
NOTE RE BIRD BOMBS: Bird Bombs are 30-minute, information packed programs designed to teach bird identification skills. August's two Bird Bombs will help us tune up for shorebirds.
- **August 22, 7:00 PM** – [THE BEST BIRD SONGS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD](#). This presentation by Nathan Pieplow will delve into the surprising world of bird songs that are hidden, underappreciated, and sometimes flat-out denied to exist.

DUE. Reminders for opportunities to join DFO activities.

- **Field Trips.** (Mid July to mid August.) Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page soon. They fill up fast.
 - **Mt. Evans Area via Mestaa'ēhehe Rd** (pronounced Mes-ta-heh, formerly Squaw Pass Rd).* **Jul 11**, 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
 - **Park County Explorations.* Jul 12**, 5:30 AM – 4:00 PM.
 - **Sandstone Ranch.* Jul 12**, 7:00 – 11:00 AM.
 - **Conifer Area (Developing Birder Trip)* Jul 15**, 6:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
 - **Park County Explorations.* Jul 16**, 5:30 AM – 1:00 PM.
 - **Gilpin County (Developing Birder Trip).* Jul 16**, 6:30 AM – 2:30 PM.
 - **Bear Creek Greenbelt (Patch Birding Trip).* Jul 17**, 6:00 – 8:30 AM.
 - **Park County Explorations. Jul 19**, 5:30 AM – 2:00 PM.
 - **Roxborough State Park. Jul 24**, 6:30 – 10:00 AM.
 - **Rampart Range Road and South Platte (Developing Birder Trip). Jul 29**, 6:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
 - **Banner Lakes SWA (Weld County). Jul 29**, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
 - **Clear Creek County. Jul 30**, 6:30 – 11:00 AM.
 - **Clear Creek County. Aug 8**, 5:30 AM – 2:00 PM.
 - **Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat/Sawhill (Boulder County). Aug 8**, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

- **Teller County. Aug 15**, 5:30 AM – 3:00 PM.

* Wait listed

DÉJÀ VU. Items for renewed awareness from recent Lark Bunting newsletters.

- **State seeks birders' help with Brewer's Sparrow project.** Colorado Parks & Wildlife needs volunteer birders for an early summer community science project to help determine which kinds of Brewer's Sparrows are nesting in Colorado's high country. Breeding Distribution of Brewer's Sparrows in Alpine Areas of Colorado seeks to find out if birds in the study area are the state's prevalent sagebrush subspecies using uncommonly high-elevation habitat, or if there are "unconfirmed populations" of the less prevalent timberline subspecies.

The effort runs June 10 through July 31 and focuses on 31 priority alpine sites on public lands in 20 counties for Brewer's Sparrow surveys during the 2022 breeding season. The sites are spread across a north-south geographic swath covering roughly the middle one-third of Colorado. CPW "is looking for help from birders (who) can identify Brewer's Sparrows by sight and sound, safely hike off trail at high elevation, and use eBird" to document what they find.

The CPW publication, [Citizen Science Project: Breeding Distribution of Brewer's Sparrows in Alpine Areas of Colorado](#), provides the whens, wheres, hows and whys of the project, as well as contact information for questions.

- **Shop DFO Merch.** Check out the new [DFO Shop](#). Proceeds from the sale of DFO merchandise will support the organization and help spread the word about DFO.
- **Past Programs.** Whenever possible, DFO records monthly programs and [makes the recording available](#). Examples: "Birding Adventures in Australia's Northern Territory," "From "Crazy French" to Fisher's Peak: Colorado's newest state park," and "An Evening with Nathan Pieplow."

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There's no snap of autumn in the air yet, but if you're looking closely, early hints of fall migration are already about. And after our annual mid-summer break, Denver Field Ornithologists' newsletter is back, too, with a record 33 pages of club news, features and photos. The September 2022 issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. Get a load, and we do mean load, of all that's inside:

+ A DFO forefather passes on: One of the early members to whom we owe the existence of Denver Field Ornithologists, **Lynn Willcockson**, died in June. A strong, quiet and gentle soul, he was a passionate birder, field trip leader and second-longest serving member since joining the club in 1960–61. Learn much more about Lynn and his legacy in our special tribute

+ Better Birding Skills: Sidelined by the pandemic, DFO's popular Better Birding Skills Workshops are coming back this fall with a September session on how to get the most out of the popular Merlin Bird ID app. Still to come: An ambitious slate of workshops in 2023 focused on species and habitat. And don't forget: "Bird Bombs" mini-workshops on bird ID continue to drop for September, October and beyond

+ In the Scope: Q&A with the indefatigable **Joey Kellner**, veteran DFO field trip leader and ringmaster of the annual December extravaganza that is the Denver Christmas Bird Count. Not to be missed!

+ Field Tripping plus: Enjoy twice the photo-filled accounts of DFO field trip adventures, from the northeast Colorado Plains to a special bird-nesting area in the high country that DFO itself helped create more than half a century ago

Plus: The return in August of DFO evening programs, and previews for September, October and November, too . . . a birds-and-habitat focused look at Xcel Energy's big "Colorado's Power Pathway" green energy transmission project across the Eastern Plains . . . and more DFO news and views.

Good late summer birding, everyone!

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DFO Digest

Updates & Reminders

NEW. Programs and other events coming soon.

- **August 18, 7:00 PM – BIRD BOMBS:** [The Little Pipers](#). Get ready for fall migration with David Suddjian as he delivers a blast of information on the shorebird peeps species in genus [Calidris](#).
- **August 22, 7:00 PM – MONTHLY PROGRAM:** [THE BEST BIRD SONGS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD](#). This presentation by Nathan Pieplow will delve into the surprising world of bird songs that are hidden, underappreciated, and sometimes flat-out denied to exist.
- **September 6, 7:00 PM – BBS WORKSHOP:** [Merlin Bird ID](#). Better Birding Skills Workshops are back! Join Gregg Goodrich to learn how to use Merlin ID to its best advantage.
- **September 8, 7:00 PM – BIRD BOMBS:** [Fall for Sparrows](#). Continue prepping for fall with David Suddjian as he shares ID tips for those confusing fall sparrows.

DUE. Reminders for opportunities to join DFO activities.

- **Field Trips.** (Mid August to mid September.) Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page soon. They fill up fast.
 - **Belmar Historic Park.** Aug 17.
 - **Lincoln Mountain Open Space, Douglas County.** Aug 17.
 - **Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County).*** Aug 18.
 - **Northwestern Colorado.*** Aug 19.
 - **Staunton State Park (Jefferson County).** Aug 20.
 - **Ken Caryl Valley Area.** Aug 20.
 - **Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR.*** Aug 21.
 - **Custer County.** Aug 26.
 - **Cañon City.** Aug 26.
 - **Northeastern Colorado.** Aug 28.
 - **Chatfield State Park.** Sep 3.
 - **Chaffee County.** Sep 6.
 - **Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County).** Sep 7.
 - **Louviers (town) and DuPont Open Space (Douglas County) (Developing Birder Trip).** Sep 25.

* Wait listed

DÉJÀ VU. Items for renewed awareness from recent Lark Bunting newsletters.

- **Conservation Corner.** Xcel's new Power Pathway project: How will birds on Colorado's Plains fare? [The Lark Bunting](#), page 22.
- **Shop DFO Merch.** Check out the new [DFO Shop](#). Proceeds from the sale of DFO merchandise will support the organization and help spread the word about DFO.
- **Past Program Videos.** Whenever possible, DFO records monthly programs and [makes the recordings available on our website](#). Examples: "Bird Bombs," "From House Wrens to Herons: Updates from Avian Research," and "A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds."

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Not to repeat last month's greeting, but there's STILL no autumn snap in the air as fall migration deepens. But bake or shiver, the October issue of *The Lark Bunting*, Denver Field Ornithologists' newsletter, is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. It's another jam-packed collection of news, features, essays, and photos, from the feisty hummingbird on the cover to the autumn birds in the back. Also inside:

+ Hawktober!: A trio of special DFO birds-of-prey ID programs in October — in-person, on Zoom and in the field — is more than enough to get your Hawk Watch motor running. But there's also an "ad-hawk" autumn effort to count migrating raptors from atop Dinosaur Ridge, led by DFO enthusiasts **Ajit** and **Liza Antony**. Read about them all now (and don't forget to sign up!)

+ Birding in early Denver: While researching a latter-day boom in bird sightings at central Denver's Cheesman Park, essayist and DFO member **Jared Del Rosso** happened across the century-old footprints of the city's little-known pioneer birder, **W.H. Bergtold**. Jared's historical appreciation is full of birds . . . and surprises

+ From scales to feathers: This month's *In the Scope* Q&A reveals that DFO program director and longtime member **Bill Turner** was the first curator of *reptiles* for the Los Angeles Zoo before birds ever caught his eye. Just one revelation about his journey from teen-aged *ophiophilist* (snake lover) to leader of "Tours by Turner" birding excursions to Australia and beyond. A guaranteed page- . . . Turner!

PLUS! DFO's non-stop 2022 field trip year, by the astonishing numbers . . . a few well-chosen words from president **Susan Blanett** about cats . . . **Marc Strong**'s review of **Nathan Pieplow**'s delightful Aug. 22 talk about the bird sounds we never hear . . . the first glimpse of our "DFO? It's Me" ad campaign for membership renewal . . . and much more DFO news and views.

And whether you're short-sleeved or bundled-up, good autumn birding, everyone!

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DFO's Hawk Watch Education Program begins October 9. Sign up now for a trio of special programs in October to improve your raptor ID skills.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1-3 PM: RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION WITH NATURE'S EDUCATORS

This in-person event features live falcons, hawks, and eagles from Nature's Educators, an acclaimed Colorado wildlife outreach organization. The event will take place in the Lois Webster Amphitheater at Denver Audubon's Kingery Nature Center, 11280 Waterton Road, Littleton. Participants will learn how to identify eight raptor species found along Colorado's Front Range. The program will also cover habitat and conservation measures. Bring your cameras and questions for an encounter that will provide a truer perspective on the size of these birds of prey. The event will take place rain or shine.

Cost is \$10 for DFO members, \$12 for nonmembers. This program is for adults only (age 18 and up). You must register in advance. No refunds. All proceeds benefit the Denver Field Ornithologists Hawk Watch program at Dinosaur Ridge.

How to register. DFO members should register through [DFO/BBS Workshops](#). Nonmembers should register through [EventBright](#).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 7 PM VIA ZOOM — HAWKS IN FLIGHT ID SKILLS

Dave Hill, chair of DFO's Hawk Watch Committee, will present on field marks to look for when observing raptors in migration. This free session is for birders of all ages. Participants will learn to identify locally seen hawk species in flight using shape, plumage, and flight styles that distinguish each from the others. You must register in advance. A link to the Zoom webinar will be sent to you.

How to register. Members and nonmembers alike can register through [DFO/Zoom](#).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 9 AM - NOON — DFO FIELD TRIP TO DINOSAUR RIDGE

Those who attend one or both of the above events will receive an email invitation with details for joining this field trip where you can practice your skills. Join DFO seasoned hawk watchers at the site where DFO conducts its spring migration birds-of-prey count with the support of partners Denver

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DFO Digest

Updates & Reminders

NEW - Programs and other events coming soon

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

September 26, 7 PM MDT, Monthly Program: Letting GO: Birding and Nature Study in the Age of Zoomers and Alphas. Attention Gen X and Baby Boom birders: Your moment of 21st century birding Zen is at hand. Thus will sayeth the generational prophet, birding seer and prolific author Ted Floyd in a most provocative presentation.

October 9-15, Hawk Watch Education Program. A trio of special DFO raptor ID programs in October — in-person, via webinar and in the field.

- **Sunday, October 9, 1-3 PM, In-Person:** This event, at Denver Audubon's Kingery Nature Center, 11280 Waterton Road in Littleton, features live raptors from Nature's Educators, an acclaimed Colorado wildlife outreach organization. Cost is \$10 for DFO members and \$12 for nonmembers. DFO members should register at [DFO/BBS Workshops](#); nonmembers should register at [EventBright](#).
- **Wednesday, October 12, 7 PM MDT, Webinar: Hawks in Flight ID Skills.** Dave Hill, chair of DFO's Hawk Watch Committee, will present on field marks to look for when observing raptors in migration. In this free session, participants will learn to identify locally seen hawk species in flight using shape, plumage, and flight styles that distinguish each from the others. Members and nonmembers register at [DFO/Zoom](#).
- **Saturday, October 15, 9 AM - Noon, Field Trip.** Those who attend one or both of the above events will receive an email invitation with details for joining this field trip where you can practice your skills. Join DFO seasoned hawk watchers at the site where DFO conducts its spring migration birds-of-prey count with the support of partners Denver Audubon, Colorado Field Ornithologists, Jefferson County Open Space and Hawk Watch Migration Association of North America

October 13, 7 PM MDT, Webinar: Bird Bombs - Looking at Loons. Join David Suddjian for a short session on identifying loons, just in time for fall migration.

DUE - Reminders for opportunities to join DFO activities

Field Trips. (Mid September to mid October.) Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page soon. They fill up fast.

- Northeastern Colorado. Wed, Sep 21, 7 AM – 6 PM.
- Chatfield State Park. Fri, Sep 23, 4:30-6:30 PM.
- Bear Creek Lake Park (Developing Birder Trip). Sat, Sep 24, 6:30 – 11:00 AM.*
- Louviers (town) and DuPont Open Space (Douglas county). Sun, Sep 25, 6:30 – 10:30 AM.*
- Bar CCC. Tue, Sep 27, 7:30 – 11:15 AM.
- Bluff Lake Nature Center (Developing Birder Trip). Thu. Sep 29, 6:45 – 8:45 AM.
- Chico Basin Ranch. Sun, Oct 2, 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM.*
- White Rocks Trail. Mon, Oct 3, 8:00 – 11:30 AM.*
- Colorado Eastern Prairie. Wed, Oct 5, 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM.
- South Platte Park (South End). Wed, Oct 5, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- Chatfield State Park (Marina sandpit). Fri, Oct 7, 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
- Coalton Open Space. Sat, Oct 8, 7 – 10 AM.
- Chatfield State Park (The Big Sit). Sun, Oct 9, 6 AM – 7 PM.
- Southwestern Metro Area. Mon, Oct 10, 7 AM – 1 PM.
- Republican Management Area & Pipit Hill. Tue, Oct 11, 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM.
- Dinosaur Ridge. Sat, Oct 15, 9 AM – 12 PM.
- Western Colorado. Sun – Tue, Oct 16 – 18, 5 AM – 7 PM.
- Bluff Lake Nature Center (Patch Birding Trip). Sun, Oct 16, 8 – 11 AM.

* Wait listed

DÉJÀ VU - Items for renewed awareness from recent Lark Bunting newsletters

- **Hawktober?** Join DFO Hawk Watch's 3-part raptor ID series. It will take place across one week in October, and participants can attend one, two or all three sessions. It begins on Saturday, Oct 9. [The Lark Bunting](#), page 11.
- **Hear that?** It's Nathan Pieplow playing the "Best Bird Sounds You've Never Heard." Colorado bird sound expert and author Nathan Pieplow, a frequent past presenter for DFO's monthly programs, opened our fall evening series on Aug. 22 with a highly entertaining presentation. [The Lark Bunting](#), page 22.

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Dear DFO members,

You may have noticed that the DFO website has been down since Friday afternoon. Our webmaster is working on it, and we hope to have the site restored soon. Meanwhile, you can keep up with DFO through our Facebook and Instagram social media pages.

Unfortunately, signing up for field trips and some other functions will have to wait until the website is back up.

This should not impact Monday evening's program featuring Ted Floyd, "Letting Go: Birding and Nature Study in the Age of Zoomers and Alphas," if you're already registered.

I'm truly sorry for this inconvenience. Please know we're doing all we can to restore the site as soon as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

***Susan Blansett
President***

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Dear DFO members,
We are BACK!

The [DFO website](#) was down briefly. Our super webmaster worked with our web service provider tirelessly, and voila! We are back.

Back to normal: Sign up for field trips, read the newsletter, check on programs, and more. Your DFO bookmark (<https://dfobirds.org/>) will work now again.

And... there is still time to [sign up](#) for the in-person hawk identification program on October 9 with Nature's Educators.

I'm truly sorry for this temporary inconvenience. Thanks for your understanding.

**Susan Blansett
President**

Denver Field Ornithologists

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October 9 Hawk ID confirmation and details

This email is to confirm your reservation to attend the Hawk ID Workshop on October 9 at Denver Audubon's Kingery Nature Center amphitheater. Here is a link to a reminder about the three-part program and a few details to keep in mind:

- [DFO's Hawk Watch Education Program begins October 9](#)
- This outdoor event will take place rain or shine, so dress for the weather.
- The program is geared for adults, so children may not find it engaging. Denver Audubon does a Father's Day program with Nature's Educators that is a better fit for kids.
- No dogs will be allowed in the amphitheater unless they are certified service animals.
- Feel free to bring your cameras to get pictures of the birds.
- If the nature center parking lot is full you may need to park across the street in the Waterton Canyon parking lot.
- For directions, put your home address in the starting point of the map at this link: <https://goo.gl/maps/fV96oczy97KwH78u7>

We look forward to seeing you there!

DFO Hawk Watch committee

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Dear Birders,

the last fall migrants are moving through Colorado, but there's still plenty of "shoulder season" birding out there before freezing temps and snow arrive. And plenty of reading and photos await in the November issue of The Lark Bunting newsletter, now available on the DFO website at

<https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. Including:

+ In the Scope: This month's Q&A has twin subjects — **Ajit and Liza Antony**, whose 50-year American birding odyssey led from Bombay (now Mumbai) in India to New York City and now to Denver. They've been DFO members for years and are now full-time Denver residents. Read of their exploits from field trips to Dinosaur Ridge

+ What bird are they looking at?: Sidelined by the pandemic, DFO's popular Better Birding Skills Workshops are coming back this fall with a September session on how to get the most out of the popular Merlin Bird ID app. Still to come: An ambitious slate of workshops in 2023 focused on species and habitat. And don't forget: "Bird Bombs" mini-workshops on bird ID continue to drop for September, October and beyond

+ Last call for Hawktober: If you haven't signed up yet for Sunday's first of three raptor-ID programs this month, there's still time. Get all the details, and ready about all the other workshops in store, including more half-hour "Bird Bombs" species ID specials

+ In the cat + bird seat: Last month's "From the President" column about feral and free-roaming cats and birds struck a nerve. We continue the conversation about two favorite creatures in many of our lives, and how helping instead of demonizing feline assassins may prove a better way to reducing bird deaths

Plus: Boulder bird author-journalist Ted Floyd's provocative thoughts on the generational transfer of power in the birding world . . . our new "What Were They Looking At" birding photo feature . . . and updates on birding's future at Chico Basin Ranch and the open-space fate of a defunct Denver golf course.

Enjoy the season, and good autumn birding!

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DFO Digest

Updates & Reminders

NEW - Programs and other events coming soon

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

Monthly Program, Monday, October 24, 7 p.m. MDT: Life History of the Best Tree in Our World. David Leatherman described his upcoming webinar with this riddle: "They smell like vanilla, sport dimples in their bark, feed pine beetles, house Pygmy Nuthatches, inspired Albert Bierstadt, frame the Front Range, fuel ferocious fires and comfort squirrels with tufted ears."

Bird Bombs, Thursday, November 17, 7 p.m. MDT: Forest Hawks.

Identifying our Accipiters. Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks and Northern Goshawks are forest speedsters and often challenging to ID. Bird Bombs are blasts of bird identification information designed to help you be a better birder. Find them on the DFO Programs & Events webpage. You can find past Bird Bombs recordings on the [Past Programs](#) page.

DUE - Reminders for opportunities to join DFO activities

Field Trips. (Mid October to early November.) Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page soon.

- **Chatfield State Park.** Thu, Oct 20, 3:30 – 6:15 p.m.
- **Prospect Park** (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt) (Developing Birder Trip). Fri, Oct 21, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM.
- **Centennial Park and Nearby Hotspots** (Patch Birding Trip). Sat, Oct 22, 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM. *
- **Lake Pueblo SWA.** Sun, Oct 23, 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM. *
- **Pueblo area.** Sat, Oct 29, 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM.
- **DIA Raptor Alley** &. Sat, Oct 29, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- **Bear Creek Lake Park** (Developing Birder Trip). Sun, Oct 30, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
- **Fairmount Cemetery/High Line Canal** (Denver County).
- **Standley Lake.** Mon Oct 31, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. *
- **Mountain Lakes and Scoter Trip.** Sat, Nov 5, 6:00 AM – 6:30 PM.
- **Belmar Historic Park.** Sat, Nov 5, 8:00 – 11:00 AM. *

- **North JeffCo Explorations.** Sun, Nov 6, 7:15 AM – 12:00 PM.
- **Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR.** Sun, Nov 6, 1:00 – 4:52 PM.
- **Barr Lake State Park** (Developing Birder Trip). Mon, Nov 7, 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM.

* Wait listed

DÉJÀ VU – Items for renewed awareness from recent Lark Bunting newsletters

Next Stop: Brazil? A DFO friend seeks fellow travelers. If northeastern Brazil is on your list of birding destinations, former DFO officer and board member Norm Erthal of Arvada is organizing a three-week excursion in 2023 (Feb. 28–March 21) for up to eight participants. Having led trips abroad to more than 15 countries, he promises “an excellent guide from Brazil and . . . a comfortable bus.” Potential species list? “Well over 600,” he says. For full details, contact Erthal at nenthal@comcast.net. [The Lark Bunting](#), page 8.

Band of birders: Helping those who lead us into the field. DFO certifies its field trip leaders to standards cultivated over the 87-year history of our club. Certification says to trip participants that our trip leaders will lead a quality field outing. It also says they will follow DFO best practices for consistently good, safe, fun and welcoming trips. That means attention to ideals of safety, ethics, birding quality, planning and communication — specific steps taken before, during and after every trip. On Nov. 12, our field trip leaders will gather at Barr Lake SP for the fall leader forum. This year’s focus will be on standards and best practices. We’ll gather to discuss and learn from each other, sharing field experiences and ideas for becoming even better ambassadors for DFO. [The Lark Bunting](#), page 19.

Denver Field Ornithologists

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With Thanksgiving nearly upon us, our Colorado winter birds are settling in, too. What a great time to delve into the new issue of the Denver Field Ornithologists newsletter, *The Lark Bunting*! Our December 2022 issue, loaded with photos and news, is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. Inside you'll find:

+ Hawktober flocked over: If you missed DFO's Oct. 9 Nature's Educators presentation with seven live raptors up very close, enjoy a gallery of photographic memories and a review of an unforgettable week of events and programs around Colorado's birds of prey

+ Standing with The Big Sit!: On the same day as that hawkfest, longtime DFO trip leader **Joey Kellner** led 50 other participants in his 18th Big Sit! dawn-to-dusk bird count at Chatfield SP. See and read all about this annual exercise in tallying as many birds as possible without leaving the park's Herony Overlook deck

+ In the Scope: This month's Q&A is with **Laura Steadman**, a field trip leader who loves to camp and who was sparked into birding more than a decade ago while helping clean up the infamous Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico

+ Last Look: A back-of-the-newsletter contemplation, in words and pictures, by **Kathy Holland** on the joys of sunrise birding in pursuit of a Colorado high-country original

Plus: **David Leatherman's** Zoom program tribute to the Ponderosa Pine, anchor tenant of a Colorado habitat teeming with birds, other wildlife and endless stories . . . climate change and the birds . . . *The Lark Bunting's* final paper chase . . . and much more DFO news and views.

Good turkeybirding, Thanksgiving friends!

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Greetings, birders.

Each year in the fall, we reach out to you to renew your membership in DFO. If you have enjoyed DFO's field trips, programs, and newsletter, but have not yet joined, this is the best time to become a member. If you join or renew now, your membership will begin immediately and extend all the way through 2023.

This is also a great time to consider gift memberships for the people on your holiday gift list who enjoy birding.

Whether you want to renew, join, or purchase a gift membership, the DFO website, <https://dfobirds.org/> makes it easy. Go to the [Membership page](#) and you will be prompted to log in. The benefits of membership are outlined there, and you can make your selections. You can opt to pay electronically through PayPal (you can use a credit card without setting up a PayPal account) or send in a check.

While you're renewing your membership please consider supporting DFO with a gift to one of our dedicated funds. You can read about your options for donating on our website at [Donate to DFO \(dfobirds.org\)](#).

Thanks in advance for making it possible for DFO to continue offering field trips, programs, and more in 2023!

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DFO Digest

Updates & Reminders

November 2022

NEW — Upcoming programs

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

- **Monthly Program**, Monday, November 28, webinar at 7 PM MST. HAWK WATCH: Looking Back and Forward, with Emma Riley. Emma was the full-time hawk counter and daily onsite coordinator during the 10-week spring 2022 season of DFO's Hawk Watch. She will speak about national Hawk Watch efforts — where they are and why they matter — and present an update on the results and trends for Hawk Watch this coming season on Dinosaur Ridge. Visit the Program Preview in the latest [Lark Bunting](#), page 9.
- **Bird Bomb**, Friday, December 9, webinar at 7 PM MST. BETTER DUCK: Bird ID focusing on winter duck identification.

DUE — Upcoming field trips

Here is a partial list of upcoming field trips. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page soon to discover additional trips and sign up while space is still available.

1. Fairmount Cemetery/High Line Canal (Denver County) (Patch Birding Trip). Thursday, November 24, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.
2. Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR. Friday, November 25, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM.
3. * Aurora Reservoir. Friday, November 25, 12:30 to 4:30 PM.
4. * South Platte River Trail at E 88th Ave and I-76 (Patch Birding Trip). Saturday, November 26, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. (Accessible)
5. Bluff Lake Nature Center. Saturday, November 26, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.
6. South Platte Park--South End (Developing Birder Trip). Sunday, November 27, 2:00 to 4:00 PM.
7. Denver City Park (Denver County) (Patch Birding Trip). Tuesday, November 29, 8:00 to 11:30 AM.

* Wait listed

DÉJÀ VU — Recent items for renewed awareness

- **The Christmas Bird Count is starting soon.** DFO members play a big part in covering many areas of Audubon's annual Denver Christmas Bird Count. The Audubon CBC is the US's longest-running community science project, now in its 123rd year.
 - To learn more about the CBC, and to join the December 17 count, led by DFO's Joey Kellner in several south suburban locations, visit the December [Lark Bunting](#), page 10.

- There's also a separate "Denver Urban" count that takes place on New Year's Day in various locations, led by longtime DFO and [Denver Audubon](#) member Hugh Kingery.
- **Time to Join or Renew Your DFO membership?** Each year in the fall, we reach out to you to renew your membership in DFO. If you have enjoyed DFO's field trips, programs, and newsletters, and are considering joining or rejoining, this is the best time of year to become a member. If you join or renew now, your membership will begin immediately and extend all the way through 2023.

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In addition, please consider supporting DFO with a gift to one of our dedicated funds. You can read about your options for donating on our website at [Donate to DFO \(dfobirds.org\)](#).

- Research, Education and Conservation Grant Fund
- DFO Hawk Watch
- Friends of DFO

Thanks in advance for making it possible for DFO to continue offering field trips, programs, and more in 2023.

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DFO Digest

Updates & Reminders

November 2022 — UPDATE

UPDATE — Upcoming programs

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

NEW DATE:

- **Bird Bomb, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8**, webinar at 7 PM MST. BETTER DUCK! will focus on our opportunity to enjoy and identify our diverse and plentiful winter ducks. We will take a close look at the fairer of the duck sexes (sorry drakes), and then consider some winter ID challenges. Informative quizzes will bring it all together at the end.

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**Event: Pinyon Jay Community Science Project –
CFO Introductory Presentation**

Where: Online via Zoom

When: Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 MT

Register: <https://cobirds.org/events/pinyon-jay-community-science-project-cfo-introductory-presentation/>

Pinyon Jays are iconic, but declining, members of the pinyon-juniper woodland community across the intermountain west, including Colorado. Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) is collaborating with [Great Basin Bird Observatory](#) and other partners across six states on the observatory's Pinyon Jay Community Science Project. **CFO needs your assistance collecting data across the state.**

Why Map Pinyon Jay Habitat & Activity?

Pinyon Jays have been declining in population range-wide. From 1967–2015, population levels fell an estimated 83.5%. In 2022, Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to have the species federally listed as threatened or endangered species, triggering a 90-day review period.

In response to this, [Great Basin Bird Observatory](#) and members of the [Pinyon Jay Working Group](#), founded in 2017, have been conducting research on Pinyon Jays and are now attempting a comprehensive survey of appropriate habitat across the western US.

Colorado Field Ornithologists is now seeking your help to survey Pinyon Jays in our state. The [Pinyon Jay Community Science Project](#) enlists volunteers as community scientists to monitor habitat usage and document Pinyon Jay behavior.

Once you sign up, you can collect data whenever you are out birding or make a special trip to explore a new part of the state!

Interested in Participating in this Project or Learning More?

On December 15, 2022 [John Boone](#), the Pinyon Jay Community Science Project lead, will speak for 30 minutes about this project, the importance of Pinyon Jays, and how you can participate, with time after for audience questions. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm MT. [Register here for this online Zoom presentation](#). If you cannot attend, we will record this presentation and post it to our YouTube channel. You can also find the link to this presentation on our [Pinyon Jay Community Science Project page](#).

About the Presenter: John D. Boone received his PhD in Environmental, Population, and Organismal Biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, with a specialization in vertebrate ecology. He spent the first ten years of his post-graduate career on the faculty of the University of Nevada, Reno, where his research

focused on the ecology of zoonotic diseases, predominantly hantavirus in the western U.S.

In 2006, he moved to the Great Basin Bird Observatory, also located in Reno, where over the last 16 years he has led or contributed to nearly 100 applied conservation initiatives, population monitoring programs, and conservation planning initiatives throughout the Western U.S. In recent years, much of his work has focused on Pinyon Jays, management of pinyon-juniper woodlands, and mortality monitoring on renewable energy sites.

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The month on the next Denver Field Ornithologists newsletter reads “January 2023,” but with the winter holidays upon us, accept this December gift in the spirit of the season. The new issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf>. Inside you’ll find:

+ Cranes, grouse, Cooper’s and more: A new season of DFO monthly evening programs via Zoom begins in January. Read about our eclectic lineup of topics and speakers from near and far and register now for these always-free, fourth-Monday presentations

+ In the Scope: This month’s Q&A is with **Peter Ruprecht**, a DFO field trip leader from Boulder County who’s absorbed in a birding scene that ranges from trails and canyons at the interface of foothills and plains to a raptor-magnet called Potato Hill

+ New year? VOLUNTEER!: DFO president **Susan Blanett** lists a few of her favorite things — the many ways you can resolve to help your favorite birding organization in 2023

+ Last Word, Last Look: In time for Christmas, our new back-of-the-newsletter feature returns to an unexpected — and unexpectedly colorful — rarity from the Southwest that showed up in the heart of Denver, in the heart of winter 2021-22

BUT WAIT THERE’S MORE: Too late for our newsletter deadline comes word of an important community science effort led by our siblings at **Colorado Field Ornithologists**: A region-wide survey of the significantly declining **Pinyon Jay** population. Get all the details on CFO’s [Pinyon Jay Community Science Project webpage](https://cobirds.org/events/pinyon-jay-community-science-project-cfo-introductory-presentation/) and attend a one-hour Zoom presentation this coming **Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. MT**. Register for the Zoom program now at <https://cobirds.org/events/pinyon-jay-community-science-project-cfo-introductory-presentation/>.

Finally, look in the new newsletter for details of the most ambitious DFO field trip in decades (12 days next May with ace trip leader **Joey Kellner** in Southeast Arizona) . . . for an urgent last call for more volunteers for the Dec. 19 suburban Denver Christmas Bird Count . . . and for more upcoming DFO "Bird Bomb" mini-webinars in bird ID.

Happiest of holidays and good Christmas birding (and counting)!

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We truly appreciate your membership in DFO and hope you have enjoyed DFO's field trips, programs, and newsletter in 2022. December is a great time to renew your membership and continue your support and participation in the coming year. For your convenience, memberships can be renewed for up to three years.

While you're renewing your membership please consider supporting DFO with a gift to one of our dedicated funds. You can read about your options for donating on our website at [Donate to DFO \(dfobirds.org\)](https://dfobirds.org/). To the extent it applies to your personal situation, donations to DFO are fully tax deductible.

This is also a great time to consider gift memberships for the people on your holiday gift list who enjoy birding.

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Thanks in advance for being an important part of DFO!

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